

II. Amendments to the Specification

Please amend as follows the paragraph that begins on page 8, line 12 of the specification:

The assembled parts are depicted in Fig. 4. Axle pinion gear 24 and its polygonal surface 30 fit into companion flange 38 and its matching polygonal surface 40. The holes of the flange are available for mounting to a drive shaft yoke (not shown) and the threads 28 of the axle pinion gear are adapted to receive a retaining nut (not shown). Fig. 5 is an end, perspective view of a portion of the axle pinion gear of Fig. 2. As mentioned above, the axle pinion gear 29 comprises a threaded end 28, a polygonal ~~surface 30~~, surfaces 30a, 30b, 30c, and at least one bearing surface 31. Polygonal ~~surface 30~~ surfaces 30a, 30b, 30c may actually be separated into three portions ~~along its length and as shown~~ along the axis 25 of the shaft. The portions are ~~of~~ preferably of roughly equal length, although this is not required, as will be seen.